GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:700
ANSWERED ON:29.02.2000
CENSUS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include the disability related item in the schedule for data collection for census 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Data on infirmities was collected in the earlier Censuses of 1881, 1891, 1901,1911, 1921 and 1931. Subsequently, due to the serious doubts expressed by the then Census Commissioners about the authenticity and quality of data collected ondisabled population, the enumeration of physically handicapped persons was disconti- nued during 1941 Census. It was felt that questions on disabled population did not lend themselves to a census enquiry since these did not seem to provide accurate data. In subsequent Censuses of 1951, 1961 & 1971 the question on disabilities was not canvassed.

1981 was proclaimed as the International Year for the Disabled. On a stron plea made by the then Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, a question on physically handicapped was canvassed during the Houselisting Operations of 1981 Cencus inspite ofserious reservations expressed by the then Census commissioner on the ability of the census to collect reliable data on this characteristics. When the results of 1981 Census were finally available, it was felt that there was considerable under-enumeration ofphyscially handicapped earlier Census Commissioners that, by their sheer design and nature, the Census Operations do not lend themselves to the determination of identi- fication of people with special and infrequent characteristics of this nature. It was felt that the enumeration of the physically handicapped continued to be beyond the scope and capacity of Census Operations.